

is it that common sense prevails in Congress to help those in greatest need, but I believe that this provision, and this bill, achieve such status. I thank the Veterans Committee Chairman and Ranking Member for their dedicated attention to the plight and troubles of America's veterans, for including the Agent Orange provision in the Veterans Benefits Act of 2001, and for passing this important piece of legislation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1,  
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF  
2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2001*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address my colleagues regarding H.R. 1, No Child Left Behind.

Although we passed this important legislation last week, I must express my reservations about certain language included in the conference report:

The conferees recognize that a quality science education should prepare students to distinguish the data and testable theories of science from the religious or philosophical claims that are made in the name of science. Where topics are taught that may generate controversy (such as biological evolution), the curriculum should help students to understand the full range of scientific views that exist, why such topics may generate controversy, and how scientific discoveries can profoundly affect society.

Outside of the scientific community, the word "theory" is used to refer to a speculation or guess that is based on limited information or knowledge. Among scientists, however, a theory is not a speculation or guess, but a logical explanation of a collection of experimental data. Thus, the theory of evolution is not controversial among scientists. It is an experimentally tested theory that is accepted by an overwhelming majority of scientists, both in the life sciences and the physical sciences.

The implication in this language that there are other scientific alternatives to evolution represents a veiled attempt to introduce creationism—and, thus, religion—into our schools. Why else would the language be included at all? In fact, this objectionable language was written by proponents of an idea known as "intelligent design." This concept, which could also be called "stealth creationism", suggests that the only plausible explanation for complex life forms is design by an intelligent agent. This concept is religion masquerading as science. Scientific concepts can be tested; intelligent design can never be tested. This is not science, and it should not be taught in our public schools.

Mr. Speaker, I am a religious person. I take my religion seriously and feel it deeply. My point here is not to attack or diminish religion in any way. My point is to make clear that religion is not science and science is not religion. The language in this bill can result in diminishing both science and religion.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
GUAM WOMEN'S CLUB

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in February 1952, a group of women set out to establish a non-profit organization designed to help improve the general education, health and welfare of the people of Guam. For the past five decades the Guam Women's Club, working on its own and with the support of other civic and service organizations, have made great contributions towards the betterment of the island of Guam. The club was taken under the wing of the Federation of Asian Women's Association (FAWA) in 1958. Due mainly to the Guam Women's Club's affiliation, this international organization has since held four conferences on Guam.

Education is one of the Guam Women's Club's paramount concerns. The club has awarded high school, college, and university scholarships since its inception. Since 1991, three full time scholarships have been put in place—awarded annually to deserving students of the University of Guam. To acknowledge the value of the teaching profession and to honor the island's teachers in both public and private schools, the club has held numerous gatherings which came to be known as "Teachers Teas."

The club has also been very active in beautification and facility improvement campaigns. A GWC project in 1954 initiated the establishment of the Guam Museum. GWC was instrumental in the construction of facilities such as the public pool in Hagåtña. The construction of the Padre Palomo Park, for which the club received national recognition, the Lalahita Park overlooking the village on Umatac, and the beautification of San Ramon Hill were made possible through their efforts. The post office petition project they initiated culminated in the opening of a post office in Dededo, the island's most populous village.

Through both individual and group efforts, GWC members have been directly involved with community and civic undertakings. In 1963, the club received national recognition from the General Federation of Women's Clubs for their islandwide clean-up campaign. The GWC Hospital Committee donates an average 150 hours of volunteer work at the Guam Memorial hospital. GWC made significant contributions towards the transition of Guam Youth, Inc. to the Guam Recreation Commission—another project that gained them national recognition.

GWC additionally actively participates and contributes toward several local civic programs and institutions. From support organizations and facilities such as the Alee Shelter, Erica's House, Child Care Co-op, the Guam Lytico and Bodig Association, St. Domicio's Nursing facility and Rainbows for all Children to national organizations such as Crime Stoppers, the Salvation Army, the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the American Cancer Society's Guam Unit, the range of GWC's efforts and interest seems boundless. GWC is a great contributor to holiday projects such as

*December 20, 2001*

Sugar Plum Tree and the annual Air Force Christmas Drop to sparsely populated outlying islands. A benefactor of the Guam Symphony Society, GWC is also a major contributor to the local public broadcasting stations KPRG and KGTF.

As the Guam Women's Club—the island's oldest women's club—celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the organization and its members. For 50 years, GWC has made substantial contributions toward the transformation of Guam and its people. I am confident that the island of Guam will continue to reap the benefits of GWC's endeavors for many more years to come.

HOME OWNERSHIP EXPANSION  
AND OPPORTUNITIES

**HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concerns over the introduction of H.R. 3206, the Home Ownership Expansion and Opportunities Act of 2001. The legislation would allow Ginnie Mae to alter its current role from guaranteeing federally backed mortgage securities to guaranteeing federal and conventional mortgage securities. In short, this legislation transforms this entity into a full functioning Government Sponsored Enterprise.

While I am not necessarily opposed to the creation of an additional Government Sponsored Enterprise, I am opposed to the creation of an entity that draws from Federal capital and is not subject to government guidelines and goals geared toward increasing home ownership and improving the American economy.

This legislation would allow Ginnie Mae to operate with equal flexibility and larger security than current Government Sponsored Enterprises in the housing mortgage market, including Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. However, it would not require that Ginnie Mae meet the housing goals established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These goals are designed to ensure that every American can and one day will be able to achieve the dream of home ownership.

Therefore, it is unclear how this legislation would help consumers or expand homeownership opportunities for minorities, low- to moderate-income families, and other traditionally underserved markets. The legislation that expands the role and scope of Ginnie Mae does not make them subject to mandatory affordable housing goals, borrower income caps, or limit their business to first time buyers. These ideals have made organizations like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac an attractive and worthy government sponsored enterprise and prompted them to create new ways to expand the number of first-time borrowers or break down barriers to homeownership.

What this legislation does is make this government entity function like a private corporation, allowing Ginnie Mae to guarantee loans not just to people who need the extra help, but also to those who can and should be using

the private market. Under these rules, I see no need to provide federal support for an organization that will perform a function in the housing market that can be executed by a private banking organization.

Mr. Speaker, our nation's housing finance system is the model of the world. We should be concentrating our resources, time and effort in closing the gap of homeownership rates between minority families and the larger homeownership rate. We have the tools necessary to improve ownership numbers; let's use what we have to successfully meet our laudable goals.

# RESIST A BILL WITH TAX CUTS THAT WOULD DRAIN THE SURPLUS

**HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, a year ago, economists surveyed the future and saw nothing but surpluses: \$5.6 trillion over the next ten years. Today, the ten-year surplus is at \$2.6 trillion and falling, and virtually all that's left comes from Social Security. When the President submits next year's budget, an updated economic forecast will come with it, and the surplus will officially shrink again.

the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Mitchell Daniels, blames the economy, extra spending, the fight against terrorism—everything but tax cuts. All of these have an impact, but over ten years, the Bush tax cuts take a toll of \$1.7 trillion on the budget, and account for 55% of the depletion in the surplus—and this is just the toll of tax cuts already passed. Marking time is a little-noticed agenda of highly probable, politically compelling tax cuts that could wipe out much of the remaining surplus.

At the top of this agenda, awaiting a fix, is the alternative minimum tax (AMT). Last year only 1.5 million individual taxpayers had to deal with the AMT, but due to inflation, rising incomes, and an unindexed exemption, the AMT will become a household acronym to millions of middle-income Americans.

Before enactment of the Bush tax cuts, the number of individual taxpayers affected by the AMT was expected to mushroom to 17.5 million by 2010. The Bush tax act created new tax benefits without corresponding adjustments to the AMT, at least not after 2004. As a result, the number of taxpayers affected by the AMT will double by 2010, grow to 35.5 million—or to one in every three individual taxpayers. When these folks find that tax benefits are extended in one part of the code only to be retracted in another, they will protest bitterly, and in time Congress is certain to fix the AMT so that it does not come down on middle-income taxpayers. The cost of confining the AMT to its ambit before the Bush tax cuts would be about \$268 billion over 2003–12. But this would leave more than 17 million taxpayers facing the AMT. If taxable income exempt from the AMT were indexed at last year's level, those affected in 2010 could be limited to about 8 million, but at a heavy cost, a further revenue loss of \$241 billion.

Just as probable as some fix to the AMT is the renewal of tax benefits set to expire. The tax code is full of short-lived benefits. CBO and OMB do not try to divine what Congress will do when these deductions and credits reach the end of their legislated lives. They simply assume that expiring provisions will not be renewed. But these are popular tax benefits, and they are almost always renewed. The revenues forgone by renewing the most prominent tax benefits from 2003 through 2012 would be about \$174 billion.

This, however, omits the largest expiring provision. In an effort to shoehorn as many tax cuts as possible into a package limited to \$1.35 trillion, congressional Republicans put a "sunset" in their tax bill, terminating all of the cuts by the end of 2010. They obviously do not intend for the sun to set on their tax cuts. They stuck in a "repealer" to diminish the apparent size of the tax bill, knowing that Congress will be hard-pressed to repeal tax cuts already in place. In time, the "repealer" itself will probably be repealed. If so, the revenue loss will be \$373 billion over 2003–2012.

When each of these actions is taken into account, an additional \$1 trillion in revenue losses has to be deducted from the budget between 2003 and 2012, along with an additional \$143 billion in debt service. The impact on the budget, all told, comes to \$1.2 trillion.

This dashes any hope that the nation can repay its publicly held debt before the baby boomers retire. It also puts the "stimulus package" in context. Disdaining the vanishing surplus and the agenda of tax cuts to come, Republicans on the Ways and Means Committee brought forth a stimulus package full of tax cuts with doubtful effects on the economy, but with a clear impact on the surplus, reducing it by \$250 billion over the next ten years. If this bill became law, it would push the overall price of the pending tax-cut agenda to almost \$3.5 trillion and wipe out what remains of the surplus.

The projection of ten-year surpluses soaring toward \$6 trillion left in its wake a sense of euphoria, a feeling that we could have it all. It's clear now that we can't, but in the meantime, out-sized tax cuts have overridden other priorities, like prescription drug coverage under Medicare. If we want to put the economy and the budget back on path, there is an axiom worth recalling from the days of intractable deficits: When you find yourself in a hole, the first rule is to quit digging. That's why we should resist a bill with tax cuts that would drain the surplus without stimulating the economy.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on rolcall Nos. 499 and 500, I was absent since I was unavoidably detained because of a security breach at the Charlotte Douglas Airport, which caused me to be unexpectedly re-routed through another airport on a later flight.

This occurred on Tuesday, December 18, 2001. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

## COMMENDING THE CANTON JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S SEPTEMBER 11 REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

**HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2001*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the students and faculty at Canton Junior/Senior High School in Connecticut's Sixth Congressional District for their beautifully touching remembrance program held in honor of the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks.

The students took the initiative to plan and run the entire program, in which stories, poems and songs were shared, honoring those who so unexpectedly and tragically lost their lives. They also created a chain of 6,000 circles, which was looped around the auditorium, to provide a dramatic reminder of the number of people who were thought to have died on that terrible day. The chain captured both the enormity of the tragedy and the value of each individual life. But ever optimistic, the chain, as one student eloquently said, was a reminder that after the attacks, "the great chain of America—the chain that links every single citizen of our country—strengthened ten thousand fold."

That vital and heartfelt presentation captured the spirit of America's journey as we watched the unfolding events in horror and disbelief and then as we grieved with great sorrow at the lives and dreams shattered by evil. Despite the anger and hatred that has touched all our hearts, these students demonstrated the power of love for others. It is that power that will make our free and caring country able to defeat the hatred of those whose poverty made them easy prey for the preachers of death and destruction.

I commend the students of Canton Junior/Senior High for expressing in words and actions the thoughts and feelings of Americans everywhere.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

(Patriotic Paper by Lauren Schwartzman)

September 11th. Do you feel what I feel when you hear that date? Can you feel the death in that date? The tears cried by three hundred million eyes for six thousand people. People whose lives were so brutally, so cruelly cut short that day. We are crying for those dreams shattered and lost, dreams of life that will never be fulfilled.

Can you feel the hatred in that date? The awful, black hate these terrorists must feel toward us to have done such unbelievable things.

Can you feel the shock in that date? The shock of a fact we have ignored for so long. That fact that maybe we are taking the safety of America for granted. That maybe taking it for granted has left it not so safe anymore. The shock that made every American's heart skip several beats, the shock that branded a look of sadness on our faces. Traces of that helpless look still linger, and it will be a long, long time before they completely fade away.

Can you feel the anger in that date? The acid fire that was lit in our hearts the moment we knew the names of those inhuman